

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended and Claim 2 has been canceled.

35 USC §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-4, and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by *Chang* (US 4,344,868). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 (which was not anticipated by *Chang*), and therefore the 102 rejection over *Chang* has been overcome.

Claims 1 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by *Matusz* (WO 97/13579). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 (which was not anticipated by *Matusz*), and therefore the §102 rejection over *Matusz* has been overcome.

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by *Fukunaga* (US 6,096,936), which has a filing date of August 14, 1998. Applicant respectfully points out that the present application claims priority to a December 10, 1997 filing date, and thus *Fukunaga* is not available as a prior art reference against the present application. Thus, the §102(e) rejection over *Fukunaga* is improper.

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by *Holtermann* (US 6,207,042), which has a filing date of January 8, 1998. Applicant respectfully points out that the present application claims priority to a December 10, 1997 filing date, and thus *Holtermann* is not

available as a prior art reference against the present application. Thus, the §102(e) rejection over *Holtermann* is improper.

35 USC §103 Rejections

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over *Chang*. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Given that amended claim 1 is not obvious in view of *Chang*, claim 5 which depends from claim 1 likewise is not obvious.

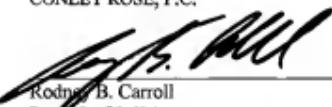
Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over *Fukunaga* or *Holtermann*. Given that *Fukunaga* and *Holtermann* are not available as prior art references as shown above, the obviousness rejections over *Fukunaga* or *Holtermann* are improper.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, she is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-1515, Conley Rose, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,

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